

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 11750

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: GREEK REACTION TO U.S. ELECTION RESULTS

1. THE AMERICAN ELECTION GENERATED EXTRAORDINARY INTEREST, AND EXPECTATIONS, IN GREECE. AND NOW THE APPARENT VICTORY OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER HAS BEEN GREETED WITH ENTHUSIASM BY GREEKS IN GENERAL AND, REFLECTING AS WELL AS SHAPING THE PUBLIC MOOD, THE GREEK PRESS. AS WE HAVE HEARD FROM SO MANY OF OUR CONTACTS, FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE INCLUDING THE MAN IN THE STREET, THE GREEK EXPECTATION IS THAT A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON WILL BE FOLLOWED BY GREATLY INCREASED U.S. SUPPORT FOR GREECE IN ITS DISPUTE WITH TURKEY.

2. THE ATHENS PRESS BANNERED THE ELECTION RESULTS THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 3, IN HEADLINES WHICH DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONVEY THE EXPECTANT MOOD IN GREECE TOWARDS WHAT IS PROJECTED HERE AS THE COMING DAWN OF A PRO-GREEK EMPHASIS IN U.S. POLICY.

3. THE GENERAL MOOD, AND ITS SHIFTS OVER THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, IS PERHAPS BEST CONVEYED BY THE CONTRASTING TREATMENT RECEIVED BY STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO BOTH PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AND PRESIDENTFORD. MUCH OF THE ATHENS PRESS NOVEMBER 2 WAS TAKEN UP WITH THE "INTERVIEW" ALLEGEDLY GIVEN BY PRESIDENT FORD TO THE TURKISH NEWSPAPER GUNAYDIN AND PRINTED IN THAT PAPER. ACCORDING TO VERSIONS OF THIS "INTERVIEW" IN THE GREEK PRESS,

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THE PRESIDENT IS REPORTED AS SAYING: "...YOU KNOW MY OPPONENT,

MR. CARTER, SYMPATHIZES WITH THE GREEKS. IF HE SHOULD WIN, THE APPROVAL BY CONGRESS OF THE U.S.-TURKISH AGREEMENT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE. THEN TURKEY WILL BE OBLIGED TO FOLLOW A NEW FOREIGN POLICY.

TURKEY WILL BECOME NEUTRAL OR PERHAPS CHANGE ALLIANCES." TO GREEKS THE PRESIDENT'S ALLEGED REMARKS WERE BUT ONE MORE CONFIRMATION OF THEIR BELIEF IN THE U.S.'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT TURKEY AT THE EXPENSE OF GREECE, AND AS SUCH, WERE QUICKLY AND TOTALLY ASSIMILATED INTO THE LOCAL DEMONOLOGY.

4. IN CONTRAST, THE AFTERNOON PRESS OF NOVEMBER 3, BESIDES CELEBRATING THE ELECTION RESULTS, ALSO CARRIED TWO REPORTS OF REMARKS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER FOLLOWING HIS VICTORY (IN LEFTIST, OPPOSITION ELEFThEROTYPIA AND CONSERVATIVE PRO-GOVERNMENT APOYEVMATINI): "I AM GLAD THAT MY ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE USA GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS WARM GREETINGS TO THE GREEK PEOPLE THROUGH ELEFThEROTYPIA. THROUGH ELEFThEROTYPIA'S PUBLISHER, MR. CHRISTOS SIAMANDAS, I WISH TO ASSURE THE GREEK PEOPLE THAT THE PROMISES WHICH I GAVE THROUGH MY STATEMENTS TO THE JOURNALISTS, WILL BE KEPT. MR. GEORGE LEONARDOS WILL BE KEPT. (SEE FBIS AT 141357Y OCTOBER FOR THIS INTERVIEW). ON THE OCCASION OF THIS MEETING OF OURS, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY WARM APPRECIATION FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE GREEK ELEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND MORE BROADLY FOR THE SUPPORT (SIC) OF THE GREEK AND CYPRIOT PEOPLE AND, TO EXPRESS AS WELL, MY DEVOTION TO THE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS WHICH WERE BORN IN GREECE."

4. APOYEVMATINI QUOTES PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AS STATING: "MY PROMISES TO THE GREEKS WILL BE FULFILLED. I WANT AGAIN TO CONFIRM MY ATTACHMENT TO DEMOCRACY." KUBISCH

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